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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 3 MARCH 10, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Chancellor Meets With Students

■ California community colleges' new Chancellor discusses budget with students.

BY KRISTA CARLSON AND LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITERS

Newly appointed Chancellor of California community colleges Mark Drummond addressed student journalists statewide at a video press conference Friday. Students from 18 colleges at 16 host colleges focused on budget concerns during the two-hour meeting.

Enrollment growth and compensation from the state for such growth surfaced as a primary concern. As cuts at Universities of California and California State Universities trigger admissions caps, cuts to outreach programs and increased tuition fees, community colleges are expecting a surge in enrollment from the deferred students.

While the growth is inevitable, college officials are unable to determine an exact amount. Although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed allocation for 3 percent growth, Valley College President Tyree Wieder acknowledged that it could reach as high as 11 percent.

"That's not happened before," Drummond said of the redirection of students. "We don't know what some of those

please *Chancellor* see page 5

Program Serves Community

■ Students give back to the community.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

The Service Learning Program at Valley College gives students the opportunity to give back to the community.

Designed for students who aren't really sure of a major or what direction to take after school, the Service learning program builds on the knowledge and skills students learn in the classroom, then gives them the opportunity to apply their education in the real world.

"Students do well when they're active in the community and apply that to a classroom setting," Rick Brossman, director to the Service Learning Program, said. "They begin to see the connection between classes and career work. [Service Learning] gives them reasons why they should take that class."

Students are required to do 15 - 20 hours of volunteer service per semester. They can choose from more than 200 pre-screened, non-profit community-based agencies, which range from organizations that work with children and the elderly to ones dealing with the

please see *SLP* page 5

Proposed Budget Cuts Spark Rally

■ Government, community leaders rallied with students at Valley College to protest Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed budget.

JORDAN DINAPOLI / VALLEY STAR

FIGHT ON - Two women look on as democratic State Sen. Richard Alarcon leads a rally Friday at Los Angeles Valley College to oppose budget cuts proposed by republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

BY SUSAN MALTBY AND KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITERS

State Sen. Richard Alarcon joined more than 250 students and activists under the morning sun in Monarch Square Friday to rally against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts. The rally, organized by the Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty along with various community groups, drew students from UCLA, CSUN, Mission College and concerned citizens of the San Fernando Valley.

"The proposed budget will hurt California's working and middle-class families the hardest," Alarcon said. "The quality of our children's education and the care our grandparents and ill relatives receive are threatened." According to the senator, college students will bear a tremendous burden.

Jessica Salazar, Valley alumnus, welcomed and introduced the government officials and each of the many community representatives who spoke about the impact of the proposed budget cuts. "We must find solutions that spread the burden fairly," Salazar said.

Government officials in attendance included State Sen. Ed Vincent, Assembly members Cindy Montanez, Lloyd Levine and Sally Lieber. State Sen. Gil Cedillo spoke in opposition to proposed cuts to in-home supportive services. "What we have is not a budget crisis," said Cedillo. "What we have is a health care crisis, a crisis of vision, compassion and commitment."

Health care workers, family members and people who rely on the various services targeted for cuts spoke about the impact the cuts will have on their lives and communities.

The audience responded with cheers and applause to Judith Dillard, a care worker from Tarzana Treatment Program, who spoke against cuts to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program with the mantra: "They say cut back, we say fight back."

Student Jennifer Williams, a recipient of disabled student services from Mission and Pierce colleges, said she owes her life to the support she received from Extended Opportunity Program and Services. The governor has proposed complete elimination of the program and the statewide grants it provides.

"Without EOPS I wouldn't

please see *Rally* page 5

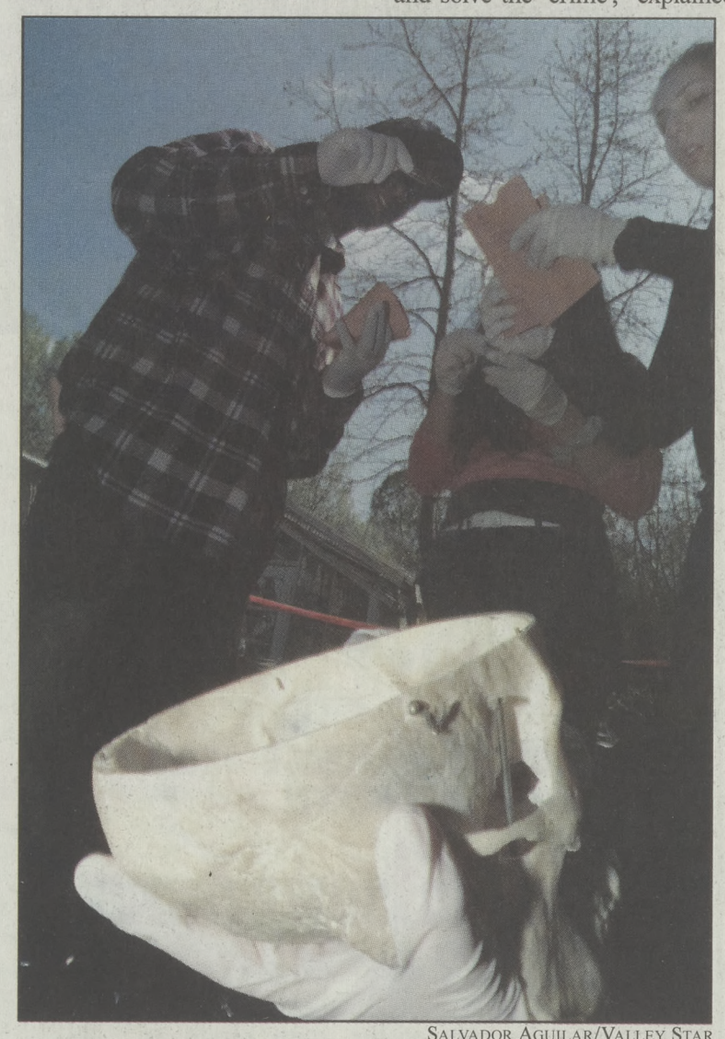
Deadly New Class Offered

■ "CSI:LAVC" teaches students to scientifically solve murder mysteries.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Several "mock murders" will take place on campus over the next few weeks and students will have the opportunity to use various scientific methods to evaluate the crime scenes and solve the cases.

"The crime scenes will involve skeletons or bones from the biology department and students will collect evidence such as real hair, fibers, blood and DNA to identify the 'victim' and solve the 'crime'," explained Biology Professor Sara Huang.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION - Students in Sara Huang's Biology 185 class practice their forensic technique during a mock murder investigation. Pictured: David Ibeawachi (l), Varduhy Nalbandyan, Irina Ilyaich and holding the skull Adelia Gervorkian.

Huang is the mastermind behind "CSI:LAVC," a new program being offered to expose students to the scientific methods used in crime scene investigation. "The purpose of the program is to help students learn an application of biology through this scenario," said Huang.

"Students will be exposed to a biology-related career option; they won't be qualified to become actual lead crime investigators," Huang said, "If the students find themselves sitting in a jury box, they will have a deeper understanding of the science involved."

Students enrolled in Independent Study section 0165 will be assigned to an investigative team with a lead detective and a lead crime investigator. They will be 'on call' over the next few weeks to respond to the 'murders'. At the end of the semester they must provide an evidence report of the crime scene and solve the mysteries.

"This is the first semester this is being offered so hopefully it will go smoothly and there will be enough interest to put it together as a package for students next year," explained Huang. She plans to enlist the cooperation of the campus Sheriff's Department as she tries to imitate a realistic crime scene.

Approximately 15 students will be taking part in this forensic science experiment. "Hopefully, it will be a fun and interesting way for students to consider a practical application of biology," Huang said.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Jacques: I'm an Actress

■ Boston native lights up campus theater program.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rumors that government officials are studying Joanne Jacques as an alternative energy source are completely unproven. So far.

The 24-year-old theatre arts major in her second go-round at Valley College is, however, doing her part to power her department.

"I can't see myself doing anything else but acting," she says. "People say you should have a fallback… No! I'm an actress, damn it!"

Jacques won't be onstage again until May, in a student production of "The Chicken Man," but in the meantime she's running lights for the upcoming "Laramie Project" and may take on some stage managing work after that.

Friend and fellow theatre arts major Katherine Young said of being in Jacques' beginning acting class, "She was amazing. I learned so much from her. She's very inspiring, [the way she] brings a cast together. There's such a camaraderie when she's around."

"Ever since I was young, people would tell me I should be an actor – 'You're so funny' – and I was like, 'Whatever,'" she says, the words firing out in a melodic staccato. But after seeing a friend's show in 10th grade, she said she thought, "I can do that. I want to do that."

please see *Jacques* page 4

JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

MY HAIR IS BIG - Los Angeles Valley College theater arts student Joanne Jacques tells it like it is.

GALLERY PG. 8
THEY MUST PROTEST
STATE SEN. RICHARD ALARCON LEADS A RALLY AT MONARCH SQUARE AGAINST THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

OPINION PG. 3
HUNTER AND THE HUNTED
SEN. JOHN KERRY AND PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ARE THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN OUR HEATED DEBATE

SPORTS PG. 7
THE SMELL
VALLEY BASEBALL FALLS FARTHER INTO A WELL AS THEY LOSE 17-1 IN A GLENDALE BATTING SESSION

NEWS PG. 2
A DIFFERENT LIFE
CENDY MARTINEZ AND HER KIDS LIVE DAY BY DAY WITH A SMALL WALLET, BUT A HEART FULL OF HOPE

NEWS REEL

NEW CONSTITUTION:

Members of the U.S.-backed Iraqi governing council signed a new interim constitution Monday in a further step toward soveriegnty. Full transfer of power to a new Iraq government is scheduled for late June.

The new constitution grants freedom of religion, equal rights for women and a bill of rights.

DEATH PENALTY:

A Manassas, Va. circuit court judge ordered convicted Washington, D.C.-area sniper John Allen Muhammad to be executed Oct. 14, following his conviction last year on capital murder charges.

UCLA CADAVER CASE:

Several families filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court Monday against the UCLA Medical Center alleging campus officals sold donated cadaver parts donated to the university under the UCLA Willed Body Program, in violation of state law.

CAMPUS EYE

UCLA INTERNSHIP:

UCLA summer internships are available for students interested in the physical and biological sciences. Contact the Career/Transfer.

A.S.U. CLUB DAY:

Wednesday, March 10, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square. For more information call A.S.U. Office (818) 788-5516.

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR MARCH IN MARCH:

Thursday, March 11 (for more information contact A.S.U. at (818) 778-5516 or go to CC102)

A.S.U. INTER CLUB COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday, March 11, 1 p.m., CC104

WRITING CENTER WORKSHOP ON SENTENCE ELEMENTS:

Thursday, March 11, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Humanities 100 & 102.

BUS TRIP TO CAL STATE L.A:

Friday, March 12, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Must register in advance (for more information see bottom).

UC SANTA BARBARA REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 15, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Tuesday, March 16, 9 a.m. - 2: 30 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

USC ADMISSIONS PRESENTATION:

Tuesday, March 16, 12 p.m. - 1: 30 p.m. (for more information see bottom).

A.S.U. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, March 16, 12:45 p.m., CC104

EOPS UNDECIDED MAJOR/GOALS WORKSHOP:

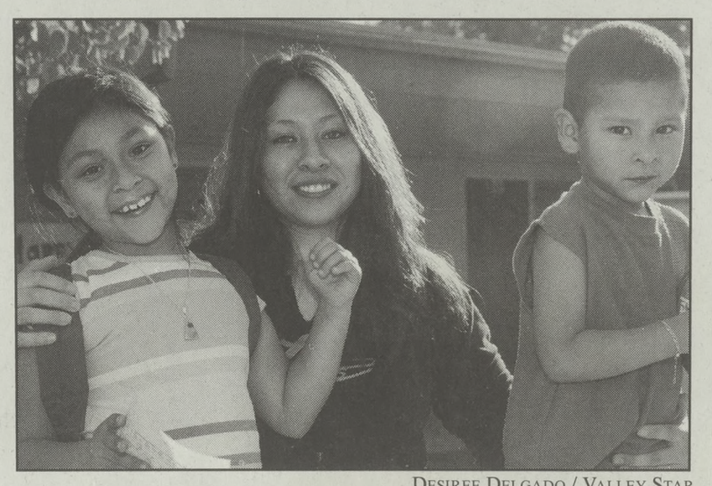
Tuesday, March 16 & 23, 4: 30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Students must attend both days. Open to EOPS students only (for more information call EOPS Office (818) 947-2432).

* Contact: Barbara Schneider (818) 947-2646, or visit Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126

Making Ends Meet

■ Low-income students overcome financial pressures with dreams to achieve.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER



DESIREE DELGADO / VALLEY STAR

ONE OF THOUSANDS - Each morning, single mother Cendy Martinez walks to school with son David, 3, and daughter Alexa, 7. She is one of Valley's estimated 9,000 low-income students.

Poverty is a dirty word. But the feeling of shame associated with the term is no comparison to the soul-twisting reality of the futile daily struggle to find ends that never seem to meet.

When you imagine poor people you probably don't picture the face of 20-year-old Cendy Martinez, a Valley College nursing major. The single mother of two knows the pain of financial hardship but she holds onto a dream of a brighter future for herself and her children.

"I don't want to be rich, but I want to be educated; provide a home for my kids," Martinez said. "Growing up, I never lived in a house, always apartments. I want to have a house someday."

The federal poverty level for a family of four in Los Angeles County is $18,400 per year.

Martinez and her children are poor, but they're not alone.

According to FedStats, a federal government informational website, California was home to almost 5 million people living below the poverty line in 1999.

Cherine Trombley from Valley's office of research and planning says that preliminary estimates indicate that at least half of Valley students meet the U.S. Census definition of low income. In other words, roughly 9,000 students are living at 150 percent of the poverty level or lower.

Exact statistics on the economic backgrounds of Valley

please see *Poverty* page 5

Campus Organization Looking for Support

■ Valley club seeks to aid homeless population by providing vegetarian meals.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

"Food is a right, not a privilege."

That is the concept of Food Not Bombs, a volunteer-based organization dedicated to sharing free vegetarian food with hungry people in addition to protesting war and poverty throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Valley College student Noelle Halter, an FNB member for more than two years, urges students to participate in the program's new branch here at Valley.

"There are a lot of homeless people in the [San Fernando] Valley," the sociology major said. "[FNB] addresses the problem by bringing healthy food to these people, not just dumpster burgers."

Los Angeles has more homeless people than any other American city, according to the Union Rescue Mission. The 2003-2008 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the City of Los Angeles says that there are approximately 90,000 homeless people at any one point in time in the city.

Authorities from the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness claim that up to 236,400 men, women and children are homeless in Los Angeles County over the course of one year. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that almost two million people are poor in Los Angeles County.

The report also indicates that families with children are the fastest growing segments of the homeless population; women and children now make up nearly 40 percent of the homeless in Los Angeles.

"Homelessness here is a big problem and students should be aware of this," said history major Thomas Epping. "I think Valley needs more organizations that encourage student participation in their community."

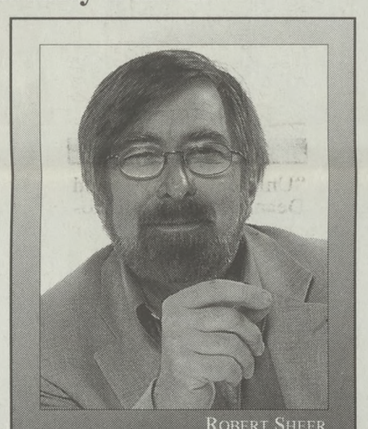
please see *Food* page 6

THE VALLEY STAR INTERVIEW

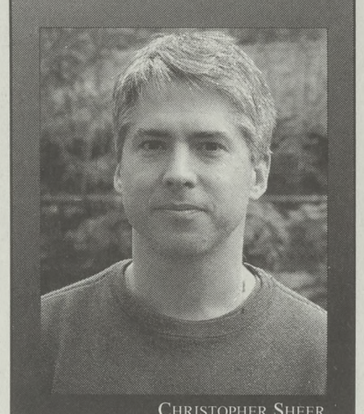
Sheer and Son: Lies, Big and Appalling

■ Sheer continues "Provocative Speaker" series at Valley Cities Jewish Community Center.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF



ROBERT SHEER



CHRISTOPHER SHEER

Robert Scheer is a nationally-syndicated columnist who has interviewed presidents, written six books and is heard regularly on KCRW's "Left, Right and Center." His son, Christopher Scheer, is an editor at AlterNet.org, a leading independent political website.

Last year, the two collaborated with AlterNet Senior Editor Lakshmi Chaudhry on "The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq", a book about the Bush Administration's decision to go to war last March.

Robert Scheer will speak at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center on March 16, closing the center's "Five Provocative Speakers" series.

In separate interviews with The Valley Star, Robert and Christopher discussed their book and what they view as a dangerously flawed foreign policy. Following is an excerpt from those interviews.

THE VALLEY STAR: How did you two end up writing this book together?

CHRISTOPHER SCHEER: We had been doing research on the United States' Iraq policy for his syndicated column for almost two years by the summer of 2003. At that time, I wrote a modest piece for AlterNet.org titled, "The Ten Most Appalling Lies We Were Told About Iraq," which compared these wild quotes from Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Powell with what we knew from the CIA documents, the U.N. inspectors and other solid sources. The story went "viral," with everybody sending it around the web. Probably about a half-million folks read it and it became the top story of the year for AlterNet. The next day my dad suggested we expand it into a book and I told him he was crazy – then I went to work the next morning and my boss, Don Hazen at AlterNet, said the same thing, and I couldn't tell him he was crazy! So we sent out a note to our readers, describing the proposed project and asking for their financial help.

ROBERT SCHEER: AlterNet is a non-profit organization, but when the call went out, it raised $30,000 in 24 hours. The only really big publicity boost was from Amy Goodman [of NPR's Democracy Now], so this is true grassroots publishing. Plus, the book is about the price of a Coke and veggie burger.

VS: What is the biggest lie we were told about Iraq?

CS: That invading and occupying Iraq was in any way a logical, sensible, responsible, moral or intelligent response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. This is the Big Lie we have been told, and all the other lies – weapons of mass destruction, [that it would be a] cakewalk, democratization – were just attempts to give this one a fig leaf. Exploiting 9/11 in this way, to pursue a policy which really only benefits military contractors and U.S. oil companies, is just shameless, really sick.

RS: They played this bait-and-switch game; [they knew that] Saddam Hussein was this defanged tiger – a secular despot who was actually on Osama bin Laden's hit list. The book is really an examination of the

please see *Sheer* page 6

Students to March on Sacramento

■ Students protest proposed tuition increases.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

On March 15, California community college students are going to send a message to the governor and legislators that "We're tired and we're not going to take it anymore," as they descend upon the Capitol to decry the proposed $8 tuition increase.

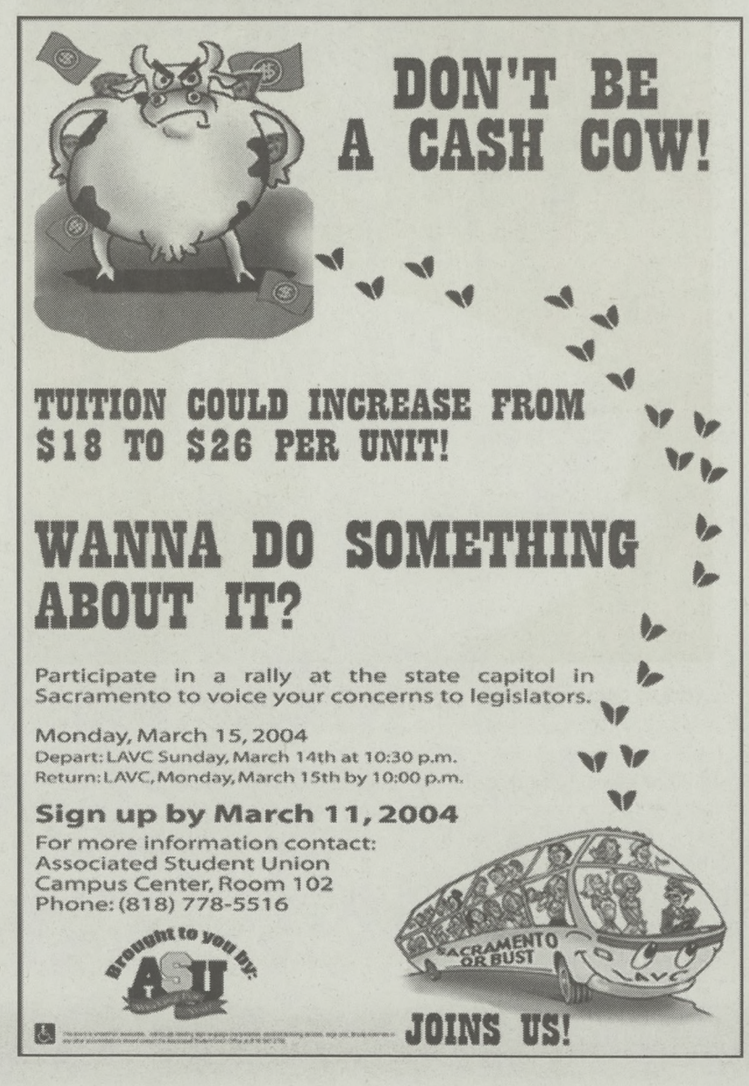
Students and several faculty members from Valley College will join thousands of other students from campuses across the state as they march from Raley Field to the state's capital in what is predicted to be the largest protest on record in Sacramento, according to organizers.

"This return to [California's] capital by students, faculty and supporters of community colleges continues the progress made last year for more clout in Sacramento for the state's largest segment of higher education," said Scott Lay, director of state budget issues for the Community College League of California. "The community college [system] refuses to be the stepchild of education, and the activity of the students over the last two years is finally changing that longstanding status."

Organizers say this year they expect between 10,000 and 20,000 students will take part in the protest of the proposed $26-per-unit tuition fee under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's new state budget that would mark a $15 increase, more than doubling tuition within a span of two years. The other issue at stake is the proposed $50-per-unit increase that will seriously impact students who already have a bachelor's or comparable degree and are returning for certification or job skills.

The Missing Student Project will also be unveiled at the march. One hundred

please see *March* page 6


DON'T BE A CASH COW!
TUITION COULD INCREASE FROM $18 TO $26 PER UNIT!
WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
Participate in a rally at the state capitol in Sacramento to voice your concerns to legislators.
Monday, March 15, 2004
Depart: LAVC Sunday, March 14th at 10:30 p.m.
Return: LAVC, Monday, March 15th by 10:00 p.m.
Sign up by March 11, 2004
For more information contact:
Associated Student Union
Campus Center, Room 102
Phone: (818) 778-5516
brought to you by: ASU
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OPINION

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

Dasani Water - 'Pure' Tap

■ **The Coca-Cola Co. taps around complaints**

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

Bottled-water drinkers beware. Your preferred beverage of 'pure' water has been debunked. One popular brand of bottled water is, in fact, tap water with a few added minerals and fancy packaging.

The Coca-Cola Co. found itself in hot water when the source of their product, Dasani, was leaked in London. Their attempt to tap into the lucrative bottled water market in England backfired when consumers discovered that Coke took the raw material from the municipal water mains in Sidcup, southeast London.

Coke's defense: "We put the water through the finest purification processes available, so what ends up in the bottle does not resemble tap water at all. It is as far away as you can get," said Coca-Cola spokesperson Judith Snyder.

Actually, natural spring water is as far away from tap water as you can get, Judith.

Consumers in London pay 95 pence ($1.77) per half-liter of tap water dressed up in a pretty blue bottle (Dasani), while the main supplier, Thames Water, charges 0.03 pence for an equal amount.

British newspapers slammed Coke: "Coca-Cola is selling water from the tap at 95 pence a bottle," the Daily Mail raged, while the Times wrote, "It's the real thing...Coke's tap water from Sidcup."

Coca-Cola has been selling Dasani water in the United States since 1999. The same purification process is used here; the only question is where the glorified tap water comes from. Sadly, it is the second best selling water product next to Aquafina which is produced in the same way.

While Coca-Cola waded through this bad press, another tidal wave hit them. England's Food Standards Agency launched an investigation into whether the description "pure, still water," which Coke uses to advertise Dasani, is a misuse of the term. FSA's guidelines say that the word 'pure' should only be used to describe "single-ingredient foods or to highlight the quality of the ingredients."

"Since Dasani takes tap water, removes material through purification, then adds calcium, magnesium and sodium bicarbonate for taste, it may not be allowed to be called 'pure'," said an FSA agency spokesperson.

Ah, but it is pure - pure fallacy. This is another example of how big business misleads the consumers in order to make a buck. Using the term 'pure' can lead a person to believe that the water is not based from tap water - something that has been criticized for years as not being fresh. It's remarkable - Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water, the real thing, costs less per case than Dasani, and to me, honestly tastes better.

Another Coca-Cola spokesperson, who wished to remain anonymous (wonder why?) said in an interview that the complaint may have been made by competitors in England's $1.9 billion-a-year bottled water market.

Coke wants to breeze over the complaints with an air of righteousness while pointing the finger and crying 'poor us, we are the victims.' The victims in this case are the unsuspecting patrons spending their hard-earned money for a product they believe is not flavored tap water.

If Dasani is your drink of choice, save money and buy a water filter. It's essentially the same thing.

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

Iowa Versus California... Guess Who Wins?

■ **The primary process renders California irrelevant**

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I love Iowa. Go Hawks!

Every time the Hawkeyes face a Pac-10 team in any sport, I'm wearing my Big Ten colors. Given the choice, I'd rather eat corn-fed beef – besides, it's healthier (hormones notwithstanding). I grew up there and my dad still lives there. And "The Music Man" took place there.

None of which qualifies the corn state, or whatever it's called, to have more influence over national politics than California.

California has by far the most people of any state in the union (about 26 million to Iowa's 2.8) and by itself has one of the world's five biggest economies. It's also one of the most liberal, Democratic states in the nation – so much so that the Bush administration has all but written off any attempts to suck up to it for the upcoming re-election campaign.

At the time of the Iowa caucus in January, the leading candidate in California according to major polls was none other than Howard Dean. He led Wesley Clark by 17 points in the Public Policy Institute poll (John Kerry garnered only 6 points to Dean's 31) when the former Vermont governor stumbled in Ohio, er, Idaho, I mean, Iowa. Then Dean lost his mind at the defeat rally and the rest is history.

But how different would history be if California's primary had been held the same night as Iowa's caucus?

Remember, by the time it finally got around to us, Dean and most of the other serious contenders had dropped out of the race, leaving only the sort-of dueling Johns, Kerry and Edwards, to choose from. And Edwards dropped out of the race before the polls closed!

Yes, I'm omitting Al Sharpton, Dennis Kucinich and, for that matter, Lyndon LaRouche from consideration. If you really thought they could win, then you may want to go with the girl with kaleidoscope eyes back to the land of looking glass ties.

That left only one outcome in California – the nearly 50-point shellacking the future vice president took at the hands of his future boss. Our state, one of the nation's leaders in many vital areas (except, apparently, education) became a silent, kowtowing follower. California's vote was predictable and meant nothing.

Anyway, let's imagine just for kicks that California and Iowa voted on the same night. Let's say that that was still the first night of the primary season. Let's say the poll numbers held up and Dean crushed Kerry here but Kerry somehow pulled it out in Iowa anyway. What have we got then? A real horse race with Dean out front, Kerry struggling in distant second with a fraction of Dean's delegates and Edwards and Clark still breathing. Now, that's a primary.

There are some who argue (as does AlterNet in an essay currently running on its site) that California is politically irrelevant anyway because it is too far left of the country's center. Does that mean that Iowa and nearly all-white New Hampshire are better barometers of national ideology? That's a terrifying thought.

Why should two states, or in this case, one with such a tiny and non-random sampling of the nation's population and economy have such inordinate power to shape its political landscape?

There are many, many things wrong with the electoral process, the primary problem being the undue influence the wealthy and the corporate have. Until common sense measures such as public financing actually occurs, there are some other important things we can deal with – such as abolishing the electoral college and conducting more primaries simultaneously.

Either that, or continue to let the children of the corn rule us all.

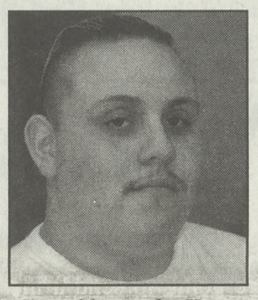
CampusView

Who Do You Support - Kerry or Bush?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD

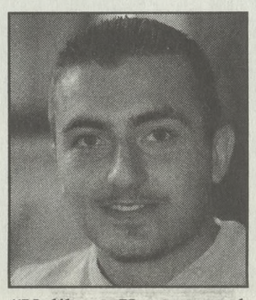
"I would choose John Kerry because I don't like George Bush."

- Lana Pierce



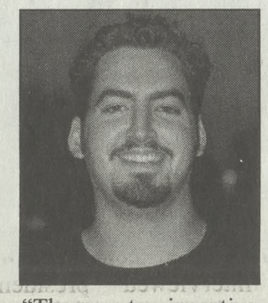
"I would vote for Kerry because when Bush came to power the economy fell apart."

- Helbert Arias



"Unlike Kerry and Dean, Bush's main focus is on International issues, while they believe that our economy should be our main priority."

- Garen Derhartunian



"The new tax incentive plans that Bush has put into place to assist owners of corporations is brilliant. That's why I'd vote for Bush."

- Guy Hopshtein

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **WHO SHOULD PRESIDE - KERRY OR BUSH?**

■ **Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com***

Kerry Is A Shooting Star

BY HILARY ROBMAN
STAFF WRITER

The results of Super Tuesday are in. Sen. John Kerry is in the running to become our new President of the United States.

"Change is coming to America," Kerry said in his Super Tuesday speech. "My campaign is about replacing doubt with hope and replacing fear with security."

Well, he's on the right path. Kerry's pro-choice stance for abortion goes directly against Bush's decision to begin the process of taking away a woman's right to choose.

"I am prepared to filibuster, if necessary, any Supreme Court nominee who would turn back the clock on a woman's right to choose or the constitutional right to privacy," Kerry said via satellite at a meeting of Democratic Party officials in St. Paul, Minn.

This is vital to the millions of women across the country, including those of us here at Valley College. Kerry also believes that health plans should include coverage for contraceptives.

Kerry's "College Opportunity Tax Credit" will help students achieve their goal of a higher education by setting aside a tax credit to lessen the burden of the cost of tuition.

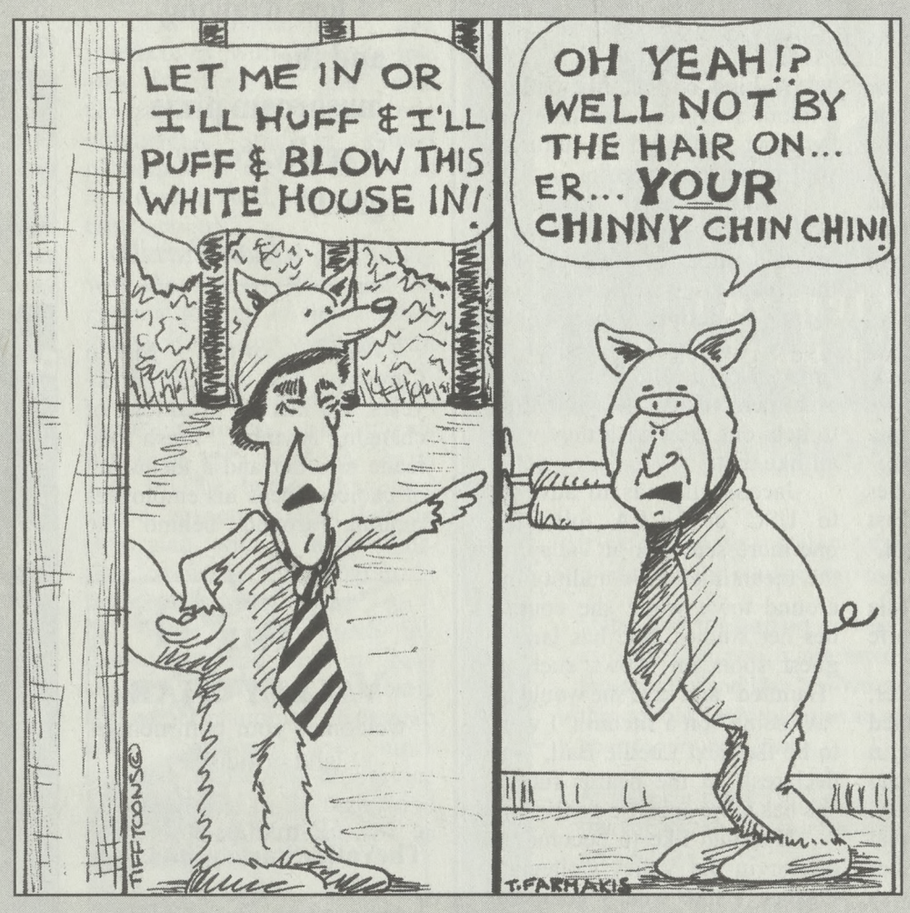
"While George Bush gives tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, students are struggling to find the support they need to succeed. Our country needs a president who understands that today's students will be the engine of our new economy – and that every student should have the opportunity to prepare for, pay for, and complete four years of college," according to Kerry's website.

Kerry opposed the ridiculous $87 billion package for Iraq and Afghanistan after learning that there were no weapons of mass destruction. That is an exorbitant amount of money to give to any country, and, frankly, it is not our responsibility to fix another country's monetary problems. We have enough of our own economic problems to deal with.

The United States has an inadequate healthcare system for low-income people. In the event they are able to see a medical professional, the costs of prescriptions are infuriating. These medications are used to restore and promote good health, yet they remain unattainable by some. Kerry promises to extend healthcare to 96 percent of all Americans and to lower costs of prescription drugs.

Kerry is proposing tax credits to help pay for health insurance: up to 50 percent of the coverage cost for small businesses and their employees and 75 percent for those who are unemployed. People aged 55 to 64, under Kerry's plan, will be able to buy into the Congressional health plan at an "affordable price."

Children will get federal support and expanded access to state-administered health insurance. This speaks to me because I plan to have a family, and I would want, like all mothers, to know that my kids will be taken care of - after all, the children are our future. If we can't help them to have healthy bodies and sound minds, where is our future headed?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T.FARMAKIS

ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Bush Is Shining Brightly

BY PHILLIP ROBERTSON
MANAGING EDITOR

The first term of President George W. Bush must be reviewed within the historical context of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Just nine months into his term, Bush faced a challenge unseen by most American administrations. The attack on the homeland shook the core of the American psyche and Bush rose to the occasion and shone. The policies established afterwards are sound and will, when Bush is reelected this November, continue to aid in the reconstruction of the nation.

Bush continues to receive criticism over last year's invasion of Iraq. His critics, including presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., claim the invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq was ill-founded and illegal. Kerry, who voted to approve Bush's request to take military action to oust the Saddam Hussein regime from power, joins the chorus of voices claming Bush lied to the American people.

"We found out (the administration wasn't) passing on sound facts to the American people- they were playing politics with our national security," Kerry said in a Feb. 4 press release. Bush's critics claimed that the failure to find weapons of mass destruction by coalition forces negated the need for change for the best interests of the Iraqi people. Bush's critics are dead wrong.

Weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq and eliminated.

The government of Iraq, under the direct control of Hussein was the worst possible variety of weaponry - thinking, feeling and conniving. Hussein showed time and time again his willingness to develop, hide and use biological and chemical weapons against his own people and neighboring nations.

The physical instruments of warfare enabled the main weapon threat, the mind of a madman, to spark fear in the world. Hussein posed a clear and imminent threat to regional stability. In the months and years ahead the policies of the Bush doctrine will assist in the rebuilding of Iraq and the establishment of a new representative government.

Back at home, Bush made difficult decisions to revive the economy from the Clinton/Gore recession. The economy was on the rebound prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, and Bush's tax cuts assisted in providing incentives needed for small business owners to expand their need for workers.

"The economy is getting stronger. Inflation is low; interest rates are low; manufacturing is up; and home ownership is strong," Bush said during last week's visit to Bakersfield. "The entrepreneurial spirit in America is alive and well."

Bush touted his tax relief policies as being a major contributing factor to the recovering economy. As someone who faced nearly 18 months of unemployment following the Sept. 11 events, the Bush tax cuts provided a sense of security and a reserve to use if needed. Others also benefited from the tax cuts, which are an integral part of Bush's economic plan. Kerry and the democrats would raise taxes to pay for overly bloated entitlement programs.

Bush's reelection will continue the economic and social recovery much needed in this country.

VALLEY LIFE

VLEPETE@HOTMAIL.COM

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10

A.S.U. Club Day
Monarch Square
9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Katie Moraes, vocalist, with Sambaguru, Brazilian music in the Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

Sparta
Troubador
7:30 p.m.
$10.00

Risen from the ashes of At the Drive In, who now currently form the mind boggling sound of The Mars Volta, these three reunite for a small preview of what is to come at Coachella.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12
Against Me
Troubador
7:30 p.m.
$8.00

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Nofx/Pennywise
House of Blues Sunset
5:30 p.m.
$40.00

Keller Williams
Avalon Hollywood
6:30 p.m.
$20.00

Pretty Girls Make Graves
El Rey Theater
8:00 p.m.
$10.00

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Valley Symphony Orchestra members play Chamber Music. Robert Chauls, director and pianist
Music Recital Hall
2:30 p.m.
$20 general admission
$15 students and seniors

MONDAY, MARCH 15
Ima Robot
El Rey Theater
7:00 p.m.
$14.00

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
No events scheduled

New Music:
Modest Mouse
-Float On single to be released in anticipation of *Good News For People Who Love Bad News*, due out April 6. A re-release of The Moon and Antarctica will also be out with brand new art and four bonus tracks never before released. (Catch Modest Mouse when they hit the LA music scene later this month.)

Valley Concert Series Returns

■ Thursday music performances return to Valley for the spring semester with a triumphant beginning and anticipation for the shows to come.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College music department and Associated Student Union held the first concert of the spring semester last Thursday in the Music Recital Hall

A spring semester kick-off performance with faculty member and alumni Kate Lewis on guitar and guest Tricia Hansen on the flute brought a teacher's presence and a delightful visitor to play together, providing a beautiful late morning sound.

"I arranged for the performers, which included faculty with the addition of professionals from outside of the college," said Department Chairman Dianne Wintrob.

The songs that were performed were from 3 different composers. The first set was Johann Sebastian Bach's French suite No.5 that consisted of "Allemande," "Sarabande," "Bourree," "Loure," and "Courante." Some of Bach's songs that they performed included characteristics of dance.

Their second set of songs was Astor Piazolla's Histoire Du Tango, which was comprised of "Bordel" (1990), "Cafe" (1930), "Nightclub" (1960) and "Concert d'aujourd hui." These songs each had different techniques used. "Nightclub" was kind of a rockish/ 20th century tango.

In Paziolla's pieces there was some percussion used that could be heard as Kate lightly tapped against her guitar during the song, adding a simple dynamic that made the music that much more enjoyable.

The guitar and flute came together very gracefully and beautifully pieces performed together. The two produced a most delightful sound for listening satisfaction. The music these two women produced onstage was very harmonious, quite danceable, and at times it was just peaceful to listen to.

"I played chamber music guitar and this cellist played with a flutist before. The flutist was Tricia who contacted me, and we have been playing together for about a year," said Lewis. "The concert was wonderful. It was great for me. I'm always nervous when I go on stage, but it's a part of performing, I like getting that rush."

SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

FIRST SPRING CONCERT - Guitarist and Valley College alumnus Kate Lewis plays Bach's French Suite No. 5 at the Spring Concert Series Thursday.

VALLEY PEOPLE

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

STAR IN PROGRESS - Theater Arts student Joane Jacques wants to make her department a place to remember. (Photo has been reversed)

'Jacques'

continued from page #1

Jacques' first break on the boards came during a Boston youth production of "Fame." She was in the chorus when one of the lead actresses was fired and Jacques was selected to replace her. However, she found the role had its challenges.

"I had to kiss a boy," says a wide-eyed Jacques. "I had to entice a guy. [That's when I realized] there was a process; I have to make someone believe me. This is work. But it's fun work."

She has made hay with her total lack of fear onstage. In last semester's "Imaginary Invalid," for instance, she donned a massive beard and terrorized the title character with a butcher knife and her blazing eyes.

At the end of the semester, Jacques channeled a demented Joan Crawford as the mother in a campus production of "Psycho Beach Party." Her director, Jon Cortez, said, "It was great working with her. I wanted her to go over the top and she was totally comfortable with it. She got the biggest laughs in the show. She was willing to do anything to make it work."

Jacques initially attended Valley in 2002, but wasn't serious about her studies ("I got all F's!," she exclaimed). The following year, however, she buckled down and dedicated herself to the theatre department.

"I kind of feel like failure without a degree," she laughed, "without that kind of cultured, well-rounded… ness."

Theatre arts instructor Cathy Pyles says, "We have a lot of wonderful students, but the cream rises to the top – and Joanne is definitely part of the cream. She was hysterical in 'Imaginary Invalid.' She's got a great personality, always willing to help out. You wish they were all like that."

Jacques intends to advance to USC or UCLA following one more semester at Valley. In the meantime, she's auditioning around town while she continues her studies. She has landed guest spots on shows such as "Haunted" and says she would be "awesome" on a sitcom ("I want to be the next Lucille Ball," she declares). In the nearer future, she has more specific goals.

"I would like to become an officer in the Valley Collegiate Players. I like what's going on but I think we can do more," she says earnestly. "Kevin Spacey and Sean Astin went here. I'd like to make a better name for our theatre department. I don't know how I'd do it, but it would be cool."

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

Fight Like a Squirrel

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Manhattan to Magnolia

■ A slice of pie found in Manhattan's East Village can now be enjoyed here in our own Valley Village

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Joe Peep's offers a taste one could find just off Bleeker Street in Manhattan's East Village. A less than appealing entrance and a New York attitude takes you to another borough far from the east. Graffiti-covered walls and barely reliable tables provide the best atmosphere to enjoy a slice. Whether you choose the hearty 5,969 calorie pie loaded with toppings and a thick crust, or the cheaper blue collar pizza, bare and thin all around, your tastebuds will be satisfied from the 'Unfancy Menu.'

"I love drawing and the mushroom pizza is really, really good."
-Juan Carrillo

Peeps' owner Martin Cardenas has been at it 21 years and has no intentions of changing anything. Fresh food made to order and a menu full of choices keeps his employees running around behind the counter laughing, yelling and having a good time.

"Every time I go there I write on the walls," said Valley student Juan Carrillo. "I love drawing and the mushroom pizza is really, really good."

People attack this hidden Valley Village pizza joint as soon as it opens in hope of getting their lunch order in on time. On the weekends you can pretty much forget about getting a pie delivered to your door in less than two hours; maybe an hour and a half if you squeeze in there to pick it up yourself.

If you are up to the challenge, the large meatball sub can be conquered by a small family or left over for the days to come. Homemade dough each morning provides the freshest flavor in their pizzas and garlic bread. Salads, subs and pizza pies are the basics that Peep's gives the customer.

A small back door next to the post office parking lot leads you into the neon-lit pit. Waiting for your meal is always an adventure. Reading the walls and adding a tag of your own always offers a feel of New York City. Loud music and raunchy comments are all around when you are sucked into this pie hole. Go in and give Joe Peep's a shot.

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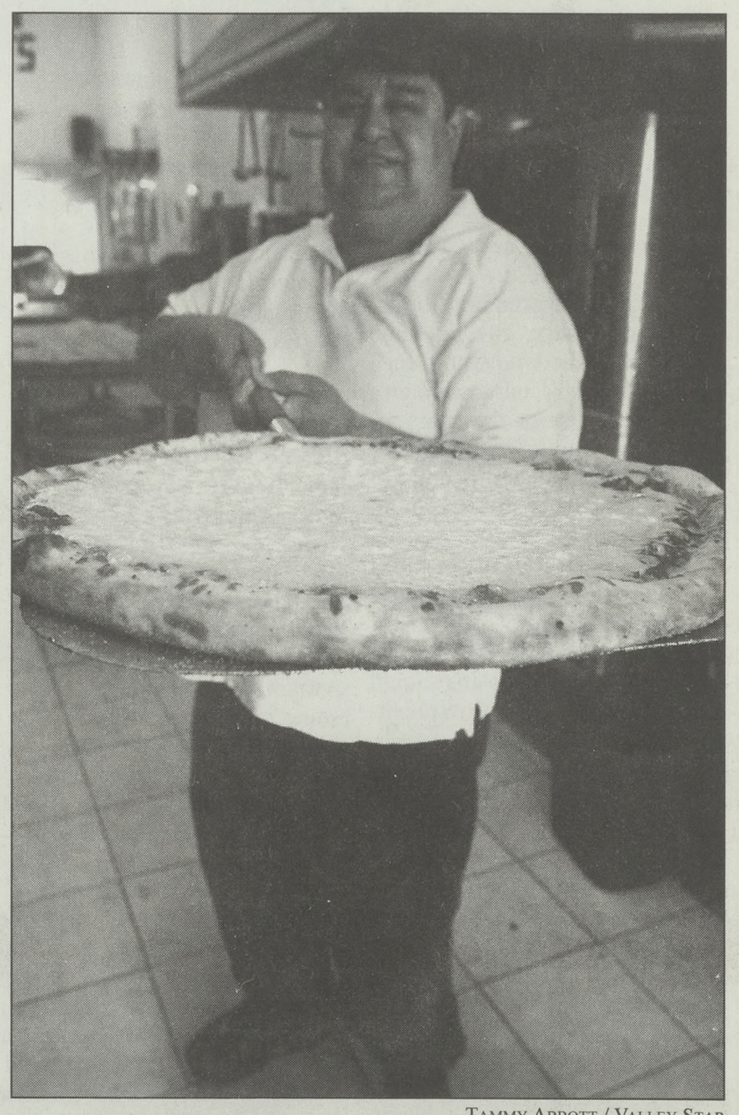

TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

SAY CHEESE- Martin Cardenas has been making the best pizza pie in the valley for 21 years.

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Please limit your letters to 200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.

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'Poverty'

continued from page 2

students are not available but students who establish financial need based on income, expenses and number of dependants can apply for college fee waivers. According to the campus Financial Aid Office, 40 percent of students received fee waivers last year.

That suggests that almost half of the student body is fighting to keep afloat financially.

California has the fifth largest economy in the world but almost 30 percent of households in this state wouldn't be considered self-sufficient based on figures from the California Joint Legislative Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California.

Current poverty levels are calculated federally and don't take into consideration the high cost of living in the Los Angeles area.

A self-sufficiency standard developed by Dr. Diane Pierce, in partnership with Wider Opportunities for Women, is a calculation of the actual cost per year for a family of four to meet their basic needs in Los Angeles County. According to Pierce's standard, it takes $52,319 to get by without public or private assistance.

Martinez was able to work part time last year while attending college. "I managed to make $19,000 last year, but there's no way that we could survive without assistance," said Martinez. "My rent is $869 a month and my bills are at least $250. My heating bill was really high last month because it was so cold."

The young mother can't afford a car. She walks to school each day with her children. Her son David, 3, goes to daycare at the Valley College Child Development Center and daughter Alexa, 7, attends Erwin Elementary School. "Luckily I live on the corner of Oxnard and Woodman so I can just walk with the kids, but it would be easier with a car," said Martinez. " It's hard."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed $3 million cut to the food stamps program would mean disaster for Martinez and her children.

"Without assistance I would have to live with my mother, quit school and work full time," said Martinez, but her heart goes out to the people who are less fortunate than herself. "I know there are people worse off than me and it would hit them even harder."

She is grateful for the help she has received. "What really helps is the food stamps," Martinez explained. "I don't think they should take assistance away. It's bad enough," said Martinez. "For people like me, it's the only way I can ever hope to make it."

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'Rally'

continued from page 1

asthmatic girl on the Healthy Families waiting list, received the loudest and liveliest response from the audience as she spoke about Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed budget. Bush said she is "truly ashamed" of the actor she used to admire. "We are not machines. We are human beings who will rise up and stand strong against these cuts," said Bush. "We have to make him realize that this is not a movie."

The governor's budget proposal includes cuts to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program and Medi-Cal programs along with cuts to university outreach programs and increased tuition fees.

"We're not talking about excess," cerebral palsy patient Dina Garcia said. "We're talking about people with disabilities being able to go out into the world and live productive lives, go to school and be contributing members of society. I don't know if the governor knows that if we end up in institutions it will cost the state more."

"We will not ignore the people in need in California because that is not the history of California," Alarcon said. "These people did not vote to cut healthcare…they did not vote to take the opportunity for education away."

Opponents of increased fees and reduced outreach services at California colleges argue that such actions would undermine efforts to improve the state's workforce by diminishing opportunities for thousands of Californians.

"Many of the cuts are devastating," Alarcon said. "These are real cuts to real people, and many people will suffer if they occur."

The Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California met in Monarch Hall after the rally to devise an alternative solution to the state's budget issues that wouldn't jeopardize educational, healthcare and low-income assistance programs.

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'Chancellor'

continued from page 1

Newly appointed Chancellor of California community colleges Mark Drummond addressed student journalists statewide at a video press conference Friday. Students from 18 colleges at 16 host colleges focused on budget concerns during the two-hour meeting.

Enrollment growth and compensation from the state for such growth surfaced as a primary concern. As cuts at Universities of California and California State Universities trigger admissions caps, cuts to outreach programs and increased tuition fees, community colleges are expecting a surge in enrollment from the deferred students.

While the growth is inevitable, college officials are unable to determine an exact amount. Although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed allocation for 3 percent growth, Valley College President Tyree Wieder acknowledged that it could reach as high as 11 percent.

"That's not happened before," Drummond said of the redirection of students. "We don't know what some of those students will do." Drummond believes that private and out-of-state universities will also take in some of the displaced students, though costs at such institutions are higher, and therefore, not feasible for every student.

Accompanying the concern for growth is concern for fee increases at the community college level.

"We're essentially paying more and getting less," Drummond said, explaining the funneling of student fees into California's general fund, which do not necessarily return to the colleges even though they generate more money.

"I think they see us as a cash cow," said James Brevard, president of Valley's Associated Student Union.

Chancellor Drummond also addressed propositions approved in the March 2 elections, including state propositions 55, 57 and 58 and at least 20 local bonds that will allocate $16 to $17 billion to rebuild community colleges statewide.

"Propositions 57 and 58 sort of eased the pain a little," Drummond said, but added, "There's still a lot of work to do with the budget."

In response to underfunded college programs, like ESL and tutorial programs, Drummond said he would work to equalize funding.

"We need equal funding, everybody supports equalization; it's like clean air, everyone supports it," said Drummond. As for underfunded colleges, the chancellor said that none of California's community colleges are adequately funded, and he will make sure everybody in the legislature will hear that we need funding, "We need at least $5,200 for each student. We need more money and it's my job to fight for it."

Drummond said state residents will soon have to face the tough choice of either raising taxes or experiencing drastic cuts.

"I serve as the official voice of community colleges in the legislature," Drummond said.

"[Gov. Schwarzenegger] knows what a community college is, that in itself is a big deal," said Drummond, reminding students that Gov. Schwarzenegger learned English at Santa Monica College.

On a larger scale, budget cuts have led to the loss of a representative for California community colleges in Washington, D.C. but Drummond's experience in politics will help to counter the imbalance.

"Most of the people that represent California in Washington [D.C.] I know," Drummond said, "California should be getting a lot more money to help us meet our mission [of serving students]." He added that he has a lot of personal contacts with the state legislature, and "I think it's important we keep in touch with our friends in legislature."

Drummond said he prefers working with students and that he will visit campuses whenever possible to get a real view of what they are experiencing locally.

"I put my whole life into education," said Drummond, whose experience includes 35 years in education, including 11 years as president of Eastern Washington University and 15 years teaching at several colleges.

"There's not much that goes on at a college that I don't understand. I view that as a big advantage." Drummond said he would work more from the outside than his predecessor, Thomas J. Nussbaum, whose background as an attorney gave him a different perspective on things.

The chancellor expressed his interest in open communication with students "I think it's important for students to have a voice," Drummond said. "It's important to help students form an identity."

Drummond said he would be willing to hold periodic press conferences with student journalists. "We have a lot of issues," Drummond said. He added, "Communication will be important as we go through the legislative system. What the legislature does in the next three to four months will be very telling."

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The Service

'SLP'

continued from page 1

Learning Program at Valley College gives students the opportunity to give back to the community.

Designed for students who aren't really sure of a major or what direction to take after school, the Service learning program builds on the knowledge and skills students learn in the classroom, then gives them the opportunity to apply their education in the real world.

"Students do well when they're active in the community and apply that to a classroom setting," Rick Brossman, director to the Service Learning Program, said. "They begin to see the connection between classes and career work. [Service Learning] gives them reasons why they should take that class."

Students are required to do 15 - 20 hours of volunteer service per semester. They can choose from more than 200 pre-screened, non-profit community-based agencies, which range from organizations that work with children and the elderly to ones dealing with the environment, political advocacy and social change.

Established in 1997, Service Learning has grown to be a successful program.

"It was a risk," Brossman said of the decision to start the program. "We were the first college in the district to run a program of this scope and size."

Some students argue that there should be more agencies to choose from that deal with social problems such as homelessness and drug addiction.

"I didn't care for the agencies they had," sociology major Rochelle Marshall said. "I wanted to help people, but was unmotivated by the places they had listed."

Brossman, however, said that students could choose agencies that aren't on the list as long as they meet the requirements of a non-profit, non-sectarian agency.

Another crucial part of Service Learning that makes it different from other programs is the "reflection journal," which encourages students to talk critically of their experiences, further enhancing the classroom connection.

"[Reflections help] to make this a rich experience," Brossman said. "This makes students responsible not only for volunteering, but for providing written testimony too."

Currently Brossman estimates about 200 students participate in Service Learning, many of who aren't new to the experience.

"A couple of my students have done [Service Learning] not only for one semester, but for two or three," said Sonya Kombedjian, assistant coordinator for the program. "It gives them benefits and clearer ideas about career choices."

Some students have reported that Service Learning not only helped them select a major and an eventual career, but allowed them have an enjoyable time.

"The experiences and interactions with other people was fulfilling to me," said Christina Gevorkyan, two-time volunteer. "Students should participate if they're interested in a certain field, just to try out their options."

Gevorkyan said of working with the elderly, "They got the greatest joy out of the smallest things. It was fun working with them."

So far, the response from faculty members and students has been very positive. Even with all the budget cuts, and added responsibilities left to Brossman, who is also a full-time counselor, the program is nonetheless going strong.

"This is still worth my investment and time to help students with their academic and career planning," Brossman said. "Students are more engaged. Those who do Service Learning tend to do better and don't drop out of classes as frequently."

The program also has strong support from Valley's administration, including Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye and President Tyree Wieder.

"Our president is very committed to building bridges with the community," Brossman said. "The response has been tremendous. It's a win-win for everybody."

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'March'

continued from page 2

twenty life-sized fiberglass models representing the 'missing community college student' will be turned into art pieces by campuses across the state and will be installed on the Capitol lawn or on the median strip at Capitol Mall. The art will then be moved around California for public exhibits, including a possible display in a prominent museum in San Francisco, according to organizers.

James Brevard, president of the Valley Associated. Student Union said that, after the Feb. 26 California Student Association of Community Colleges meeting to discuss the issues, the biggest concern regarding the increases is the relationship between nd administration. Brevard said he and other student leaders from other campuses "are feeling very jaded" in the fight for access because faculty members have revealed that, if proposition 57 passes, they will not support the march in Sacramento.

"It seems like everyone is making out from this budget proposal except the students," Brevard said. "Student access has to remain the priority, and it's only going to get rougher when the UC and CS students begin to trickle back once their access is denied." Brevard stressed that students need to know that they have power and need to become advocates for change.

Stacey McMullen, student trustee, said that students are sacrificial lambs." The legislators count on the fact that students won't get orgad enough to fight - they need to be clearbout they want this year and what they ill not tolerate, according to McMullen.

"This i a win-win situation for colleges," Mcullen said. "There's only one loser in tis - the students currently enrolled in comunity colleges who do not qualify forfinancial aid. Last year we lost 175,000 stdents because of the fee increase. The hole lower and middle classes are the ons we'll be sending out the door. If they gt their way with this, fees are going to cntinue to go up."

"This increase isn't fair because a lot of pople work, try to go to school and raise thir kids and then they raise fees," said enineering student Brad Kein. "It's going t take away from their kids and family rying to pay for school so they can mae a better life for themselves. There's ther ways they can do it instead of messig with us."

Valley President Tyree Wieder said that she could see where students would be oncerned about fees going up. In Calfornia's present economic climatpitals are closing, medical care costsmore, gasoline taxes and everything e is goinp. "You have to put it all in perspective an decide where your fight will be.

"Students definitely have a right to go there [Sacramento] and complain about the fee increase," Wieder said. "One of the problems we [community colleges] have is that we sometimes go and have these great rallies when we're in trouble and when we think everything's okay, we go away. That's how you can get off track."

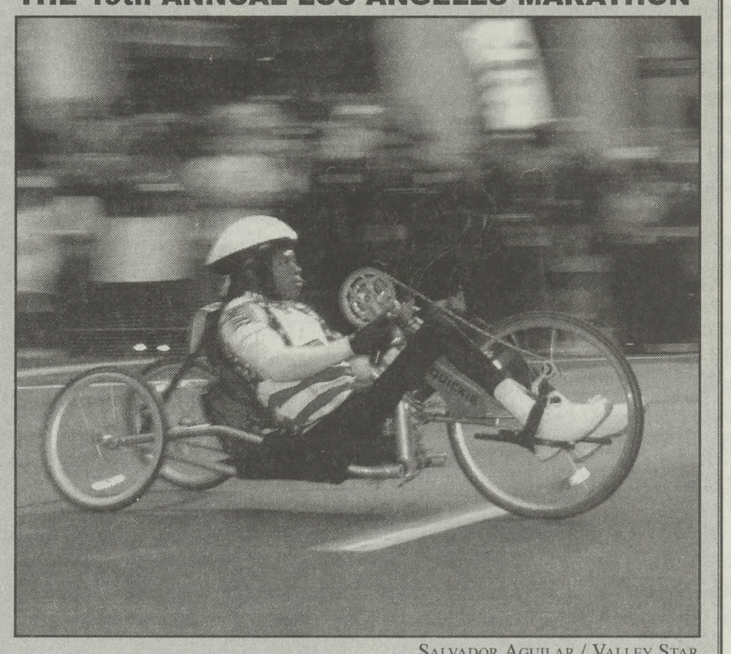
Wieder also said that, should the fee increase become a reality, she wants to make sure students know that Valley will have added staff in financial aid, thanks in part to state money that was allocated to expand that department - to make access easier to all students. "We will really be trying to help those students that need it," said Wieder.

Last year's protest in Sacramento - more than 10,000 students strong - let former Gov. Gray Davis know that college students would not tolerate the proposed $530 million budget cuts to community colleges, tuition increases and cuts to disabled student programs. This, one of the largest public gatherings at the Capitol in decades, forced the governor to reverse the majority of the cuts and limit fee increases. It also made community colleges a political force to be reckoned with.

"We took notice when 10,000 students marched on the Capitol last year," said Sen. John Vasconcellos, (D-San Jose) at a community college conference in Sacramento last month. "You need to do it again this year if you want to survive this budget."

For details about the march and rally, visit the Keep The Doors Open web site at www.keepthedoorsopen.org/marchdetails.php, ' or contact the Associated Student Union office at (818) 947-2361.

THE 19th ANNUAL LOS ANGELES MARATHON



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

PANNING ON WHEELS - A hand-crank wheelchair rider participates in the 19th Annual Los Angeles Marathon Mar. 7 in 87-degree heat.

'Food'

continued from page 2

Others are less sympathetic.

"They should just get a job and stop mooching off the rest of us," liberal arts major Javier Santos said.

Poverty, lack of affordable housing, substance abuse, mental illness and changes and cuts in assistance programs are cited as a few of the main causes of homelessness, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Halter stated that FNB offers direct action and already has several people interested in participating, "[Students] seem to be receptive to this program," Halter said.

FNB is considered one of the fastest growing revolutionary movements active today and is gaining momentum, according to supporters. Originating in Cambridge, Mass. in the early 1980s, it has grown to more than hundreds of autonomous chapters throughout the country.

According to the FNB webpage, people who are living below the poverty line - an annual income of less than $9,069 for a family of three - are going hungry at least once a month. The webpage also says that more than 30 million people are going hungry on a regular basis and this explosion of hunger has overwhelmed existing hunger relief programs, both governmental and private.

"We serve organic vegan food not only because it's easy to keep and prepare, but also because it keeps with the group's spirit of non-violence," said Piper Weinberg, volunteer for the Arizona branch of FNB. "If people are healthier, they are happier."

FNB works in coalition with groups like Earth First!, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Anarchist Black Cross, Homes Not Jails, Anti Racist Action, In Defense of Animals, the Free Radio Movement and other organizations on the leading edge of positive social change.

"I think of Valley as being a very open-minded place and very liberal as far as the people I have met here," Halter said. "I encourage people to contact me, even if they're not so sure about it."

Flyers are posted throughout campus with additional information about FNB. Interested students can call Halter at (818) 203-1322, or e-mail her at: veggiegoddess@hotmail.com for more information.

The Dogs of
THE
VALLEY STAR
welcomes your comments and criticism.
E-mail us at
TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
or drop us a line at BJ114.
Be sure to include your name and contact information.
Please limit your letters to 200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.
(818) 947-2576

'Sheer'

continued from page 1

language of lying. Something uniquely ominous about this administration is that not only does it seem to have perfected lying, but it does not permit even voices within its own administration to disagree, as we saw with [Paul] O'Neill. Remember, 80 percent of Americans once believed Hussein was behind 9/11.

It's dangerous folly to think the ends justify the means, as this retroactive switching of motives implies. This is the neo-imperialistic view – there's a bumper sticker that said it well, "What is our oil doing under their sand?"

VS: What should our exit strategy be from Iraq?

CS: This is a tough, multi-faceted problem, and I don't want to be glib. The U.N. says security is worse now than when they pulled out the bulk of their workers a year ago. If we fail – and we [already] have – to bring reconstruction, security and a functioning government to [a] country after we invade it, you can bet people there are going to hold us accountable.

So the short answer is: Get out, completely out, while transitioning in a truly international peacekeeping force, either through the U.N. or some combination of NATO and Muslim nations.

RS: The U.S. can get out while supplying economic aid via the U.N., but our continued presence exacerbates the problem dramatically. Besides, our priorities are all wrong. If we can build such wonderful schools in Baghdad, why don't we do it in Oakland?

VS: Why should students care about replacing George Bush with John Kerry?

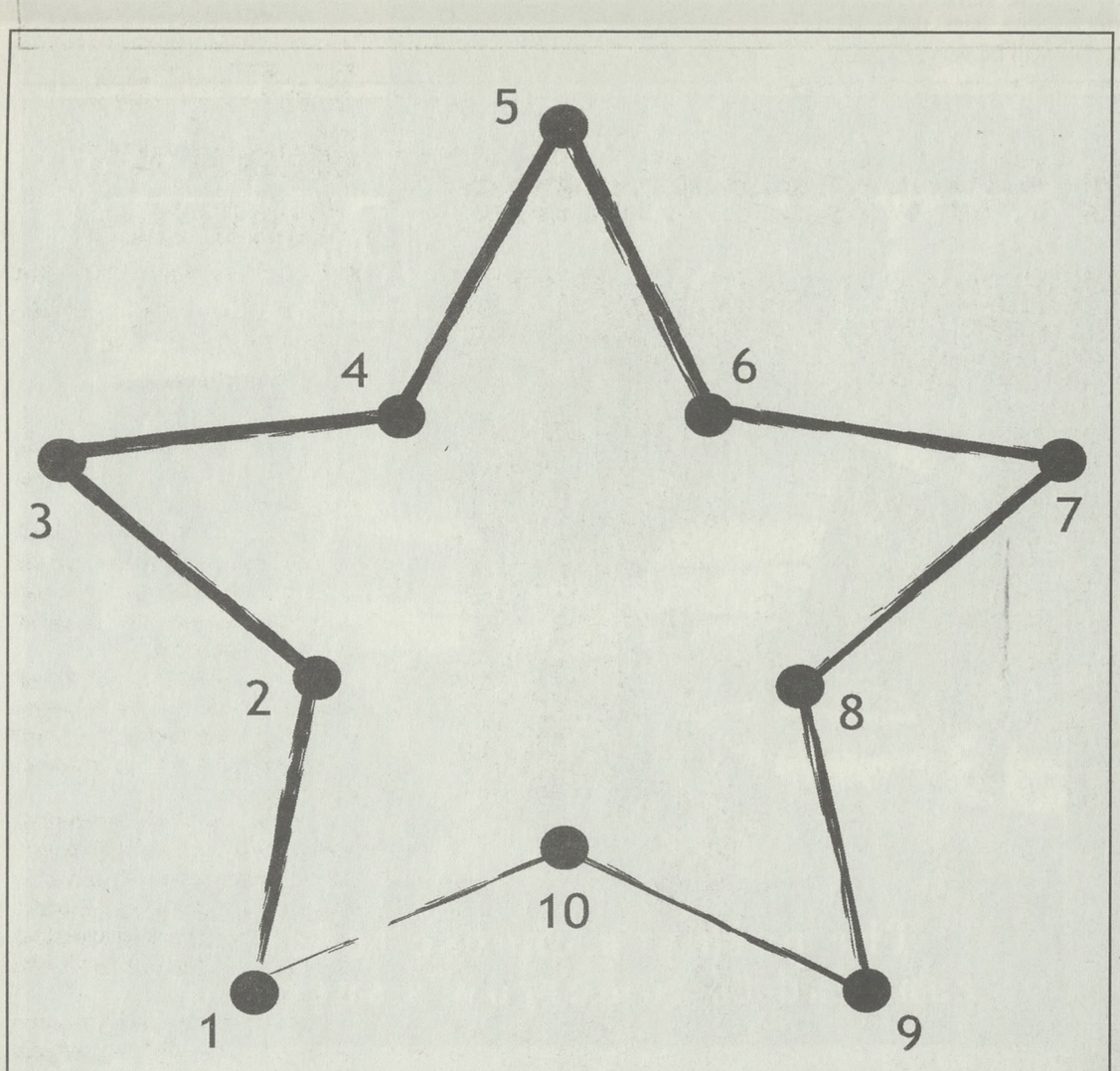
RS: If I were a student I'd say this huge indebtedness is something I'm going to be paying for the rest of my life. LBJ thought he could fight a war in Vietnam and a war on poverty. He couldn't. Twenty years from now, people who are students today will say, "How could I have not known in 2003, 2004 – we wouldn't have money for schools, to fix highways?"

Under George Bush, we refuse to go against the allies of the terrorists. This president removed sanctions against Pakistan, and they were caught selling nuclear secrets to our enemies. [The Bush Administration] has weakened us in the war on terrorism and because of its policies, Social Security and Medicare will be bankrupted by the time today's students can qualify.

CS: I believe John Kerry will make a much better president than George Bush, especially on economic, environmental, civil rights and general leadership issues. However, I'd be lying if I didn't admit I'm very concerned about how Kerry will be on foreign policy – we have to remember that not only did Kerry inexcusably vote to authorize the war on Iraq, but it was also liberal Democrats John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson who got us into Vietnam.

"The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq" is published by Seven Stories and Akashic Books. Robert Scheer will speak at Valley Cities Jewish Community Center at on Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.. For tickets and information, call (818) 786-6310.

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com



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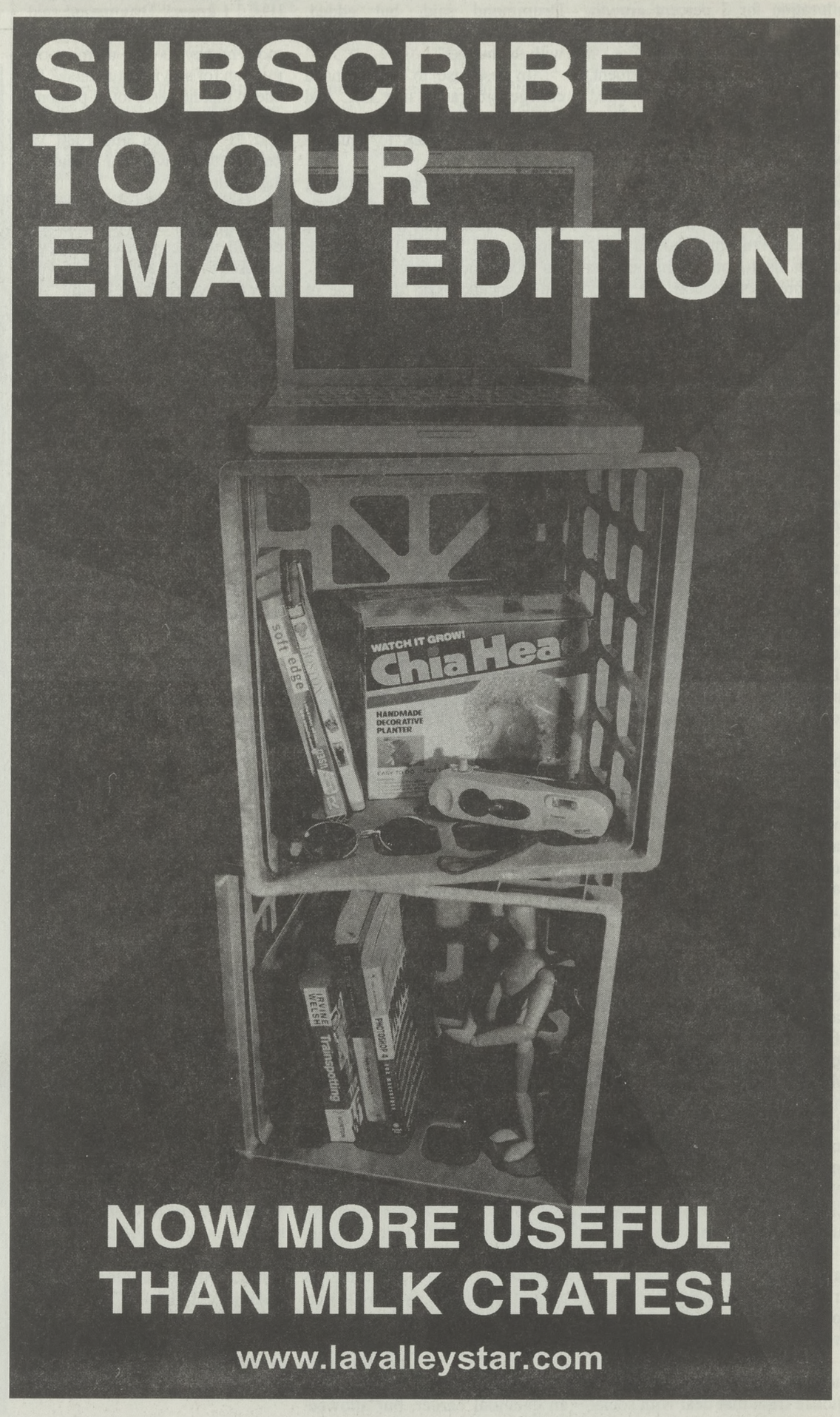


SPORTS

WWW.LAVC.EDU LAVCSPORTS@YAHOO.COM

LAVC SCORES

Baseball vs. Glendale
(L 1-17) 3/6/04
Baseball Record: 0-16
Softball vs. Santa Barbara
(L 0-1) 3/6/04
Softball Record: 5-10

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/10/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 3/11/04
Baseball vs. Pierce 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Citrus 2:30 p.m.
Friday 3/12/04
Swimming @ Pierce 2:30 p.m.
Track & Field @ Santa Barbara 2 p.m.
Saturday 3/13/04
Track & Field @ BC Relays 8 a.m.
Baseball @ Citrus 1 p.m.
Sunday 3/14/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 3/16/04
Softball @ Santa Monica 1 p.m.
Baseball vs. Citrus 2 p.m.

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers @ Utah Jazz
(L 83-88) 3/8/04
Gary Payton: 21 pts, 7 ast, 8-10 ft
Shaquille O'Neal: 16 pts, 10 rb, 4 ast, 2 tech
Derek Fisher: 13 pts, 5-6 ft, 1 ast
LAL Record: 41`-22
L.A. Clippers vs. Port. T'Blazers
(W 91-71) 3/7/04
Elton Brand: 21 pts, 14 rb, 4 blk
Cory Maggette: 18 pts, 9 ast, 6-8 ft
Chris Kaman: 12 pts, 9 rb, 3 blk
LAC Record: 26-36
L.A. Kings vs. Mon. Canadiens
(L 2-4) 3/6/04
LAK Record: 25-19-16-7, 73 points
Ana. M. Ducks vs. Mon. Canadiens
(L 2-5) 3/8/04
AMD Record: 25-28-9-8, 67 points

NOTES

LAVC
After nine years with the Lady Monarchs basketball team (four as head coach), Mike Muro is stepping down. Muro compiled a 101-36 record. Assistant coach Ruth Seja will take over.

LAVC
Atheletic department staff member Tim Knappen competed in his 19th marathon Sunday and finished just under six and one half hours.

NBA
Testimony in the murder trial of former NBA star Jayson Williams was postponed last week due to the death of the mother of lead defense attorney Joseph Hayden, Jr. Proceedings are scheduled to resume this week.

NBA
The league suspended Zach Randolph of Portland for one game for swinging at Raja Bell of the Utah Jazz Saturday.

NBA
Orlando Magic forward Drew Gooden missed Sunday night's game against the Sacramento Kings due to infected hair follicles in his right leg. Gooden was the only Magic player to play this season without an absence.

NBA
Los Angeles Laker center Shaquille O'Neal was given two technical fouls for contact against Utah's Andre Kirilenko Monday. O'Neal left in the fourth quarter of the 83-88 loss to the Jazz.

NHL
Defenseman Calle Johansson came out of retirement Tuesday and signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs for the remainder of the season. Johansson spent 15 seasons with the Washing ton Capitals, a team record, up to his retirement in August.

NHL
Anson Carter of Washington was dealt to the Los Angeles Kings Monday for forward Jared Aulin. Carter has 15 goals in 62 games this season.

MLB
New York Yankee right fielder Gary Sheffield jammed his right thumb in a spring training game Saturday against the Toronto Blue Jays and will be out for the remainder of the week.

MLB
San Francisco Giants owner Peter Magowan thinks the trade for Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees will hurt competitive baseball gameplay. He believes that teams who don't have a high salary cap can't get the quality players that big-budget teams like the Yankees can afford.

MLB
John Henry Williams, son of late Hall of Famer Ted Williams, died Saturday of leukemia in Los Angeles. He was 35. Williams' body will placed alongside his father in the Alcor Life Extension Foundation in Scottsdale, Ariz. to be frozen in a cryonics lab.

NFL
Former San Francisco quarterback Jeff Garcia signed a four-year contract Tuesday with the Cleveland Browns valued at $25 million.

WSC SOFTBALL

Bates is Great But Defense is Offensive

■ **Valley falls to 2-3 in conference despite brilliant performance by fill-in pitcher.**

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Defense was the difference as the Lady Monarchs dropped a hard-fought game to the Santa Barbara City College Vaqueros at Valley College Thursday afternoon, 1-0.

With regular starting pitcher Amanda Salazar sidelined for seven days following a procedure to remove a cyst from her back Sunday, backup Heather Bates stepped in and threw a two-hit gem.

"[Bates] didn't know she'd be pitching until a couple of days ago," said catcher Lorena Arrequia, who came into the game batting .500. "She only gave up one run – we should have gotten a win for her."

The Lady Monarchs out-hit the Vaqueros, 3-2 (according to unofficial statistics), and twice had the tying run in scoring position with less than two out, but couldn't scratch out a run against Santa Barbara's starter, Maria Coder.

Vaqueros coach Paula Congleton said of the freshman's second shutout, "We're really fortunate to have Maria on the mound."

The Vaqueros were also fortunate that the Lady Monarchs committed six errors, including a first-inning miscue by normally sure-handed second baseman Janelle Mendez that let in the game's only run. Santa Barbara, meanwhile, played errorless ball.

Valley shortstop Christie Sotelo held up her end, making several fine plays. She made a pair of diving catches in the sixth, the second snuffing out a Vaqueros threat with a double play and keeping the score 1-0.

The Lady Monarchs lost their best scoring chance to a mental error in the fourth when speedy centerfielder Alma Palacios, on third with no outs, took off on first baseman Alexandra Velasquez's crushed line drive – only to be doubled off when Santa Barbara's Lara Sanford caught it at second and threw behind Palacios at third.

A converted soccer player, Palacios had a rough day in the field, committing two errors. However, she validated coach Frankie Garcia's confidence in her by breaking up Coder's no-hit bid with her hustling infield single in the fourth. Arrequia followed with a smashed single to center and Palacios aggressively took third, but the ensuing lineout double play defanged the threat and saddled Bates with the loss.

"[Bates] did a great job," said Congleton. "Once she settled in, she really controlled the game."

Garcia was disappointed but upbeat following the loss. "Heather did a phenomenal job," she said. "We're very proud of her."

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

SAFE - Monarch second baseman Christie Sotelo, left, jumps to get the ball while the Santa Barbara runner slides in time for a safe play. The Monarchs lost 0-1 Thursday at Valley.

NEXT GAME: CITRUS OWLS LAVC, Valley Glen, CA ■ Burkett @ Pettitte ■ March 11 1 p.m. PT ■ Free

WSC BASEBALL

Monarchs Lose 15th Straight Game

■ **Losing streak continues as Monarchs are spanked by 16 at home.**

BY SAM HAHN
AND C.J. HARRIS
STAFF WRITERS

The Valley Monarch baseball team faltered once again and were blown out Saturday at home 17-1 by the Glendale Vaqueros. With that loss, the Monarch baseball team dropped to a 0-6 conference record and a 0-15 record overall.

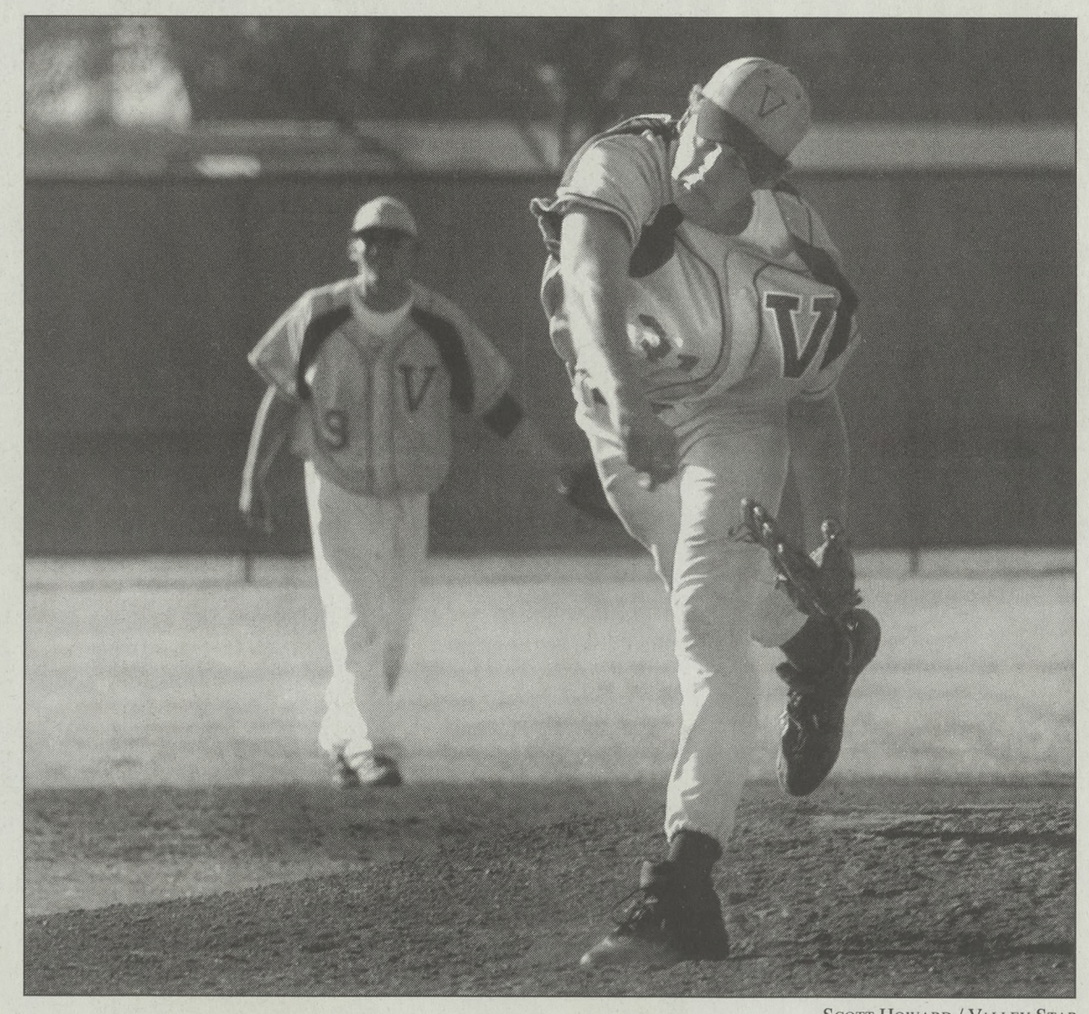
"People gave up," stated frustrated and tired sophomore shortstop Abel Pulido. "We (the team) have to learn to play the ENTIRE game. Not give up after 3 innings."

The Monarchs who struggled throughout the game gave up 17 runs on 21 hits and committed five errors that allowed the Vaqueros to score on six out of the nine innings. The offense fluttered as the team mustered just a run on six hits.

Starting pitcher Jorge Olmedo was forced out of the game in the fourth inning after throwing 54 pitches and giving up 4 runs.

Head Coach Chris Johnson was visibly upset during the game as he continually hit the dugout wall and argued with the umpires on many calls throughout the game.

Frustrations came to a boiling point as a routine fly ball dropped between reserve outfielders Erik Perez and Max Echazabal late in the game that allowed the Vaqueros to run up a already lopsided score.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

DE-FENSE! - Pitcher Andy Bunning, 31, throws a pitch while Short Stop Abel Pulido, 9, prepares to defend the possible hit during the Monarchs' game Saturday at Valley College.

Olmedo briefly discussed how the team failed to step up during the game. "(Coach Chris Johnson) can't play for us. He can't get catch balls or produce runs. We have to step it up and play better as a team."

Pulido and Olmedo both expressed concern and explained how the team needs to stop gloating in order to be successful in the future.

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
Pierce	3/11	2 p.m.
@ Citrus	3/13	1 p.m.
Citrus	3/16	2 p.m.

BASEBALL
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
BOX SCORE
vs. Glendale Vaqueros
March 6, 2004
Pike Field

	1	2	3	4	5	6
GLENDALE	1	1	2	1	4	0
L.A. VALLEY	0	0	1	0	0	0

	7	8	9	R	H	E
GLENDALE	8	0	0	17	21	5
L.A. VALLEY	0	0	0	1	6	1

Valley to Renovate Athletics

■ **Construction for new athletic facilities scheduled for Spring 2005.**

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College is set to give the athletic department a facelift. The price tag: 10 million dollars.

Athletic Director Chuck Ferrerro explained that the campus will go through a two-part construction process that is set to begin in the spring of 2005.

"It is going to be a lot of planning, work by the [campus renovation] committees, as well as many meetings to get the work done," Ferrerro said.

Starting with the swimming pool, construction is set for new 50 and 25-meter pools (50 meters is Olympic regulation length), and a sunken Jacuzzi tank is set to be built alongside a 7000 square foot DSPS handicap facility.

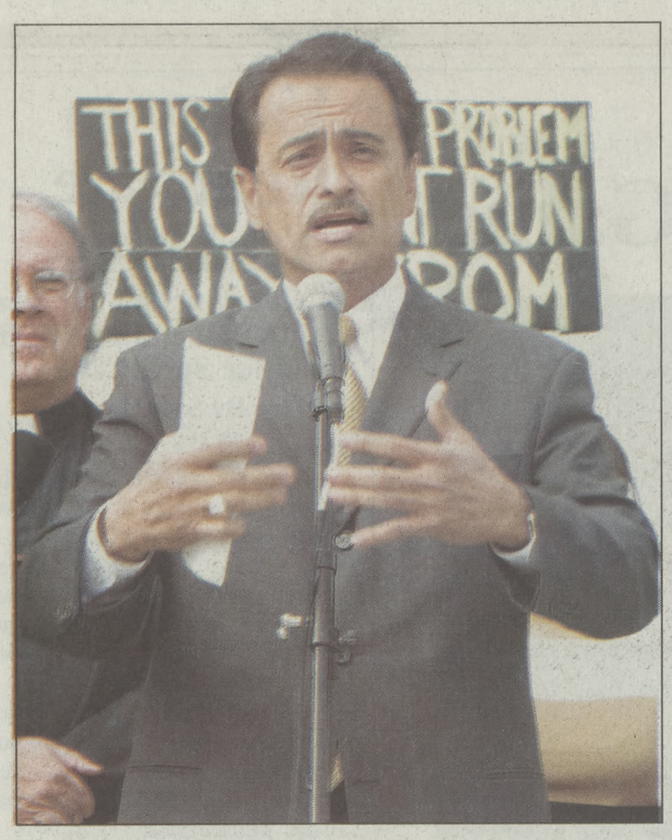
The north and south gyms are in the planning phase for new paint jobs and modernization of equipment and facilities.

"The facilities have a lot of tradition… a lot of history. But, renovations are greatly needed if we are to compete with other schools," said women's basketball head coach Mike Muro.

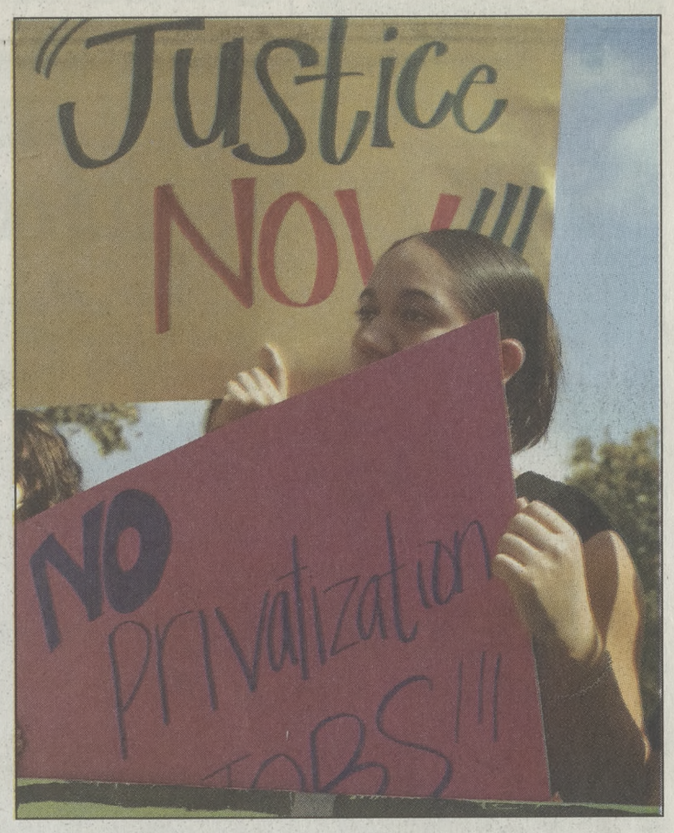
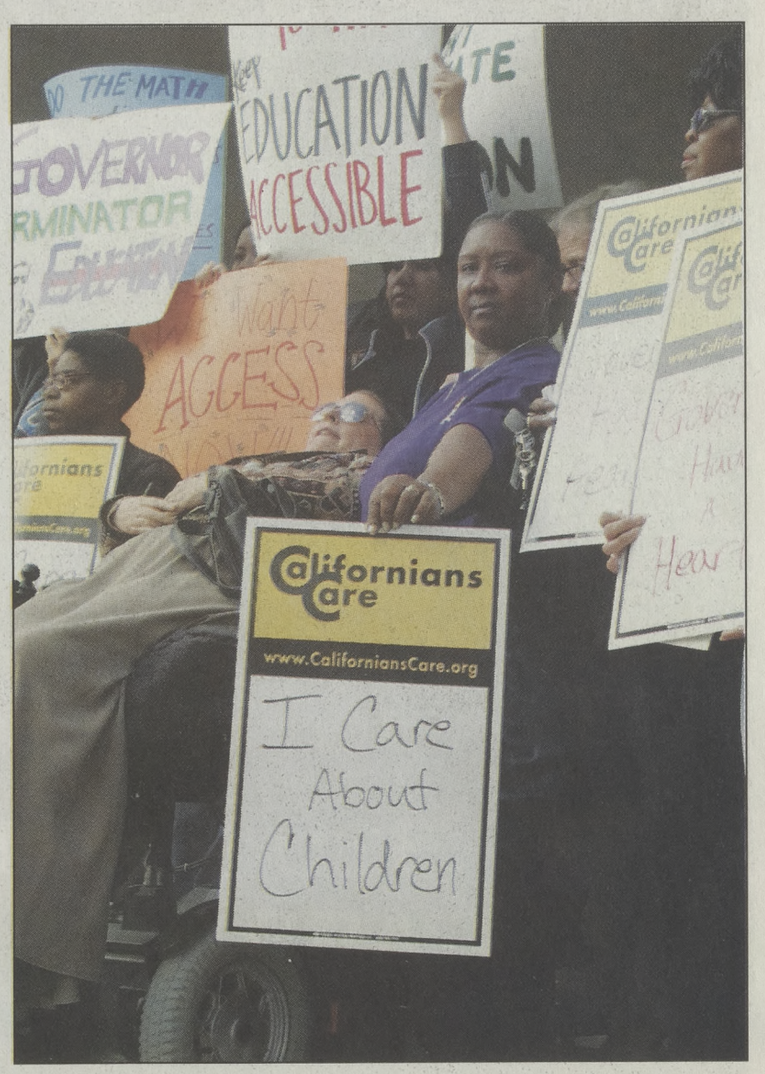
In the second phase, set to start mid 2006, work will begin on the athletic field. The current dirt track will be replaced with a world-class Mondo track to allow for track meets on campus. A new field house will be added near the west side of Monarch Stadium with new lockers and facilities for football, women's soccer, track, and baseball. Plans for new tennis courts are in the works and a track will be added around the football practice field; and Monarch Stadium will be expanded to make it soccer legal, causing a new grandstand to be built.

Ferrerro explained that the second phase of work is in the architectural stages.

RALLY AT VALLEY



STANDING STRONG - Students came from all over - Mission College, California State University Northridge and University of California Los Angeles - joining community members to protest proposed cuts to education and health care. Senator Alarcon (left) and Valley College alumnus Jessica Salazar kicked off the rally, calling for the burden to be spread fairly across the state, rather than balanced on the backs of the needy. Mission student Bob Lentz (bottom left) posed as the Master Of War, representing those who support the diversion of funds from education and aid assistance programs.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